



BRUCE BRALEY
SERVING IOWA'S 1ST
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Congressman Bruce Braley: Working to Lower Drug Costs and Expand Pharmacy Access in Iowa

Rep. Braley serves as a Member of the Subcommittee on Health under the Committee on Energy & Commerce, playing an integral role in health care legislation.

- As a Member of the Subcommittee on Health, Rep. Braley is fighting to lower drug costs and expand pharmacy access in Iowa.

Rep. Braley helped pass the final Health Care Reform package, which will finally eliminate the “donut hole” gap in coverage, so that all seniors enrolled in Medicare Part D can have proper and adequate drug coverage.

- The “donut hole” has been a problem since the Medicare Part D legislation passed in 2003, and Rep. Braley has worked to eliminate this gap in coverage. The Part D program should not create ‘winners and losers’ due to coverage gaps, and the Health Care Reform package will phase out the donut hole and lower drug prices for seniors. Specifically, Health Care Reform:
 - Gives a \$250 rebate to all Part D enrollees who enter the donut hole in 2010.
 - Provides a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs in the donut hole, beginning in 2011.
 - Phases in additional discounts for brand-name and generic drugs to close the donut hole completely by 2020.
 - A typical senior who hits the donut hole will save over \$700 in 2011, and over \$3,000 by 2020.

Health Care Reform will also help improve access to pharmacists in Iowa communities. Specifically, Health Care Reform, as passed into law, includes the following:

- Rep. Braley helped secure language in the Health Care Reform bill related to Average Manufacturer Price (AMP), to increase the reimbursements paid to pharmacists who provide certain prescriptions under Medicaid, which will ensure that pharmacists continue seeing Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Rep. Braley has fought to include **Medication Therapy Management** services, to allow pharmacists to work with patients to ensure they’re receiving proper medication and doses.

Rep. Braley successfully passed an amendment to H.R. 3962, the House Health Care Reform Act, to lower the cost of prescription drugs for seniors

- Rep. Braley offered and passed an amendment to allow the government to negotiate the prices that Medicare pays to pharmaceutical manufacturers for prescription drugs. Allowing this bargaining at the negotiation table would result in lower prices for drugs under Medicare. Rep. Braley has been a longtime supporter of the *Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act*, and his amendment is based on that bill.

Fighting to eliminate the late-enrollment period for Medicare Part D, to allow seniors the flexibility to enroll when it best suits them

- Rep. Braley co-introduced the *Universal Health Act of 2007*, which repeals the late-enrollment fee under Medicare Part D.

Cosponsor of HR 1441, the Ryan Dant Healthcare Opportunity Act, to ensure that those with extremely high drug costs can continue to afford to receive their needed medication

- This bill would permit states to exclude earned income in determining eligibility for individuals with prescription drug costs of over \$250,000. Ryan Dant (the bill's namesake) suffers from a rare disease and his bills for prescription drugs cost around \$500,000 a year. Ryan has been forced to go onto Medicaid which means he can no longer work. This bill would allow Ryan and others with rare diseases that require high costs for prescription drugs to work and contribute to society.

Cosponsor of HR 1204, the Community Pharmacy Fairness Act

- This legislation ensures fair contracts between community pharmacies and health plans by expanding the rights of independent pharmacies to negotiate and organize. This could help lower drug costs at community pharmacies.

Successfully fought for prompt payment of pharmaceutical reimbursements

- Rep. Braley cosponsored and helped pass HR 1474 and HR 6331, which ensure community pharmacies receive speedy reimbursements by requiring health plans to reimburse the pharmacy within 14 days for electronic submissions, and 30 days otherwise. This legislation became law in July 2008.

Brought First District pharmacist to testify before the Small Business Committee

- The Small Business committee held a hearing on July 18, 2007 titled, "Medicaid Drug Reimbursements: Are CMS Cuts Bad Medicine for Small Businesses and Beneficiaries?" Matt Osterhaus, a family pharmacist in Maquoketa, testified before the committee.

Ensuring the voices of community pharmacists are heard

- Worked to ensure that the perspective of community pharmacies was included in the debate over TRICARE coverage of prescription drugs. Successfully urged his colleagues to reject certain proposals that would have expanded mail-order, to the detriment of community pharmacies.